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REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PEACE-LOVERS TO MEET IN 1955

At its session in Stockholm in November the World Council of Peace set going something new, something big and important. It decided to organise a World Assembly of all the forces working for Peace, to take place in the second fortnight of May 1955.

Its reasons are given in the short and telling Appeal adopted by the Council. This Appeal is addressed to everyone. For the Assembly is to muster the representatives of the Peace Movement; but at the same time it is to bring together representatives of all those organisations, groups, trends of opinion which speak and act today for similar ends, though outside the Movement.

Only the World Council could promote and carry through such a step in the given time. For the World Council is the most universal of movements; it is the only movement which can get a favourable response both in all countries and in all circles. It has now a rich experience in promoting gatherings of different kinds, in bringing face to face representatives of different points of view, in searching out compromise solutions acceptable to all. Furthermore, in every country it has the organised support of broad peace committees whose work is indispensable to the success of any such enterprise on a world scale.

Special characteristics, special strengths confer special responsibilities. On the whole of our Movement, on the World Council, on each National Committee, on each Peace Committee this responsibility falls directly: to set going the work, the actions, which will find their culmination in the World Assembly.

The basis for this activity is given by the Stockholm decisions. All the main problems of the day are covered — the essential problems facing the peoples in different parts of the world. Above all, in the Address to the Peoples, the problem of Europe is thrown into sharp relief. Round the aims set in each of these decisions big movements rallying the whole nation can be brought into being or strengthened. Big popular campaigns, new steps for strengthening all trends towards joint action, are the indispensable basis for the sound preparation and the success of the Assembly.

We have about four months in which to do the job: that is to say the work has to start from now.

A number of National Committees have already begun to distribute widely the Appeal for the Assembly. The Appeal has been published in different forms. Preliminary contacts have been made with representatives of a number of peace organisations and groups interested in this new step. In some instances bodies designed to make it possible for very representative delegations to take part in the World Assembly are being set up. Such steps will increase in number and extent in the coming weeks; for time presses.

1954 saw big battles and big successes in the struggle for peace. Today new perils which seriously threaten the chances of peace have arisen.

It rests with the peoples to save the chances of peace from ruin — with the peoples, and also with each man and each woman. Therefore 1955 will see the people, all the forces of peace, come together to prevent the division of the world into opposed military blocs, to ensure that the nations find the way to co-operate for their mutual well-being, their independence and their common security.

The Bulletin of the World Council of Peace wishes all its readers a Happy New Year

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WHAT THE LONDON AND PARIS AGREEMENTS MEAN

German Militarism Re-established | *Germany Permanently Divided* | *Nazi Generals Armed with Atomic Weapons*

Outline of the Pacts

The main practical effects of the London and Paris Agreements are these:

● **"Sovereignty" of the German Federal Republic.**

France, Great Britain and the U.S.A. 'terminate the occupation regime'.

The Federal Republic has 'the full authority of a sovereign state over its internal and external affairs'.

The three powers maintain the right to station troops in West Germany at least until 1984.

● **West Germany incorporated in Military Alliances.**

'The system of automatic assistance in case of attack' is extended to the German Federal Republic and Italy. The German Federal Republic is incorporated in N.A.T.O.

● **Establishment of a new Wehrmacht.**

The German Federal Republic is to raise land, air and naval forces on the scale laid down in the "Special Agreement" annexed to the Treaty establishing E.D.C. This "Special Agreement" is *secret* and not a published document. (See Note 5, page 37 of British Government White Paper, Miscellaneous No 32 [1954] Cmd 9304.) Thus there is *no official information* on the size of the West German army which is to be raised. Authoritative statements appearing in the Press, which have not been challenged, give the following:

Army	400,000	Naval Vessels	800
Air Force	80,000	Armoured Divisions	4
Navy	20,000	Mechanised Divisions	2
Tanks	8,000	Motorised Divisions	6
Planes	1,500	Air Force Wings	20

● **Powers of N.A.T.O. Supreme Command.**

All forces of N.A.T.O. countries, including West Germany, are placed under N.A.T.O. 'Supreme Allied Commander, Europe'.

How do its Supporters Justify this Plan?

Some of the arguments used by supporters of the Agreements are examined here.

'Ratification of the Agreements will provide a basis of "strength" for negotiations.'

The truth is that these Agreements present a *fait accompli* on the very question which has to be negotiated — the peaceful solution of the German problem. Arms are given to Nazi generals who plan the restoration of Hitlerite frontiers. This is an attempt to impose a policy by "strength". In its note of 9 December the Soviet Union makes its point of view quite clear: the Agreements are incompatible with the Franco-Soviet and Anglo-Soviet Pacts; they will make impossible the reunification of West and East Germany into a single state; they will make four power talks on the unification of Germany 'void of substance and will exclude the possibility of achieving agreement on this question'.

'The increased unity of Western Europe is a step towards the unity of the whole of Europe.'

In fact these Agreements are political-military pacts directed against the states of the rest of Europe openly and specifically. This is underlined by the refusal of the Western Powers to accept the Soviet offer to join N.A.T.O. The attitude of those who designed the Agreements is clearly expressed in the following statement in an editorial in *The Economist* of 4 December, 1954, headed "Reunion in Freedom":

'There is in truth only one way by which the division of Germany can be brought to an end, and that is by the Russians allowing the East Germans to join their brothers in the West.'

This position is emphasised by the clause in the Agreements recognising the Government of the Federal Republic as the sole Government entitled to speak for Germany — which precludes any possibility of negotiation with the Government of the German Democratic Republic and consequently renders impossible any negotiation for all-German elections.

'The Agreements are necessary for the security of Europe.'

In fact the Agreements give arms to those militarists who have twice led the German people to disaster, twice started world war and devastated Europe. The Agreements perpetuate the division of Europe. If they are ratified they will provoke an arms race between the two parts of Germany and between the two halves of Europe. They will create a Korea in Europe.

'It the Agreements are not ratified West Germany will be rearmed all the same.'

West Germany cannot be rearmed without the consent of all three occupying powers. For example, if France were to reject ratification or postpone it France could also veto the rearming of West Germany. Furthermore, geography places France in a decisive position in relation to military strategy in the West. This is made clear in the following passage from an editorial in *The Observer* of 19 September, 1954:

'Does this mean we must concede to a divided and unstable France a right of veto over all our plans? The answer is: Yes, it does. The French veto is inherent in France's geographic and political situation. France has the power to paralyse Western defense.'

How the Agreements 'Control' Armaments

All the controls depend on an "undertaking" given by the Chancellor of the German Federal Government. The Agreements lay down no sanctions to be applied in the event of a breach of the Agreement.

'A.B.C.' Weapons.

In the Agreements the Federal Government undertakes 'not to manufacture in its territory atomic, biological and chemical weapons'. There is no restriction whatsoever on the German Federal Republic or big West German firms manufacturing these weapons outside Germany.

In fact, negotiations are being carried on by such concerns as Krupps and the big firms which were formerly members of I.G.Farben for setting up plants in North Africa, Spain and other countries. Dornier is already starting to make aircraft in Spain. It was officially announced in Bonn on 7 December that 16 leading West German chemical, electrical, engineering and other firms have combined to form a 'Society for Physical Research'. Bayer Werke A.G. (formerly I.G.Farben) is to treat iron ore to produce uranium salt. Degussa, Frankfurt controlled by Badische Anilin- und Sodafabriken (formerly I.G.Farben) is to produce pure uranium. Farbwerke Hoechst (formerly I.G.Farben) has entered into a partnership with U.S. chemical firms to establish a new company in Brazil.

The restrictions, such as they are, refer only to the manufacture of 'A.B.C.' weapons. There are no restrictions at all on the new German army being equipped with these weapons.

If the Allied Supreme Command in N.A.T.O. so decides, the West German divisions can, as soon as they are set up, be armed with atomic, biological and chemical weapons made by other N.A.T.O. powers.

Long-range Rockets, etc.

The same rules apply to the manufacture in West Germany of long-range missiles, guided missiles, influence mines, warships of more than 3,000 tons, submarines of more than 350 tons, bomber aircraft for strategic purposes.

In addition, the West European Council set up by the Agreements can, by a two-thirds majority vote, give the Federal Republic permission to make these weapons, ships and planes.

'Method of control.'

The agreements set up an Agency for the Control of Armaments. It is to carry out its work by scrutinising 'statistical and budgetary information', which will be supplied by the Governments concerned: i. e. the German Federal Government will supply the material on which the control of its armaments will be based.

There is no permanent organ of inspection or control. From time to time the Control Agency is to make 'test checks, visits and inspections'. 'Such inspections shall be conducted in a spirit of harmony and co-operation.'

It is not surprising that on 26 October, 1954, the *New York Times* wrote:

'The new controls provided by the new treaties are more of an irritant than an insurance; they cannot prevent the emergence of West Germany as the first military power in Western Europe, and they probably will not prevent the re-emergence of a type of German general staff, with the subsequent dangers of chauvinism.'

Such are some of the facts which, as they become more widely known, will help to unite the people in the struggle to render the Agreements ineffective.

European Conference for Negotiation on the German Question

(Paris, December 11—12, 1954)

One hundred and fifty delegates from 15 countries took part in the European Conference for Negotiation on the German Question which took place in Paris on December 11th and 12th.

The Platform

The following persons chaired the successive sittings of the Conference:

Mr. Edouard Daladier, former French Prime Minister.

Mr. Paul Bastid, former French Government Minister.

Mr. Heinrich Gruber, delegate of the Protestant Churches to the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

Mr. Ben Parkin, British Labour M.P.

Mr. Jacob Friis, former Norwegian Social Democratic Deputy in the Storting.

Mr. Jean-Marie Domenach, director of the French review, *Esprit*.

Those on the platform included Mr. Michel Bruguier (France); Mr. Riccardo Lombardi, Socialist Member of Parliament and former Government Minister (Italy); Mr. René Bovard, writer (Switzerland); Mr. Angelopoulos, former Government Minister (Greece); Dr. Hans Iwand, Dean of the Theological Faculty of Bonn University; Mrs. Esther Brinch, Chairman of the Women's Committee of the Danish Radical Party.

The Speakers

Twenty-five persons addressed the Conference. All gave priority to negotiation and rejected any act which would be likely to jeopardise it. It should, however, be noted that there were differences, sometimes important ones, between the ideas expressed.

The speakers included Dr. Gustav Heinemann, former Minister of the Interior of the German Federal Republic; Mr. Sydney Silverman, British Labour M. P.; Mr. Léo Hamon, French Catholic Senator; Mr. Jacques Debu-Bridel, French Gaullist Senator; Mr. André Liautey, Independent Deputy, former Government Minister. Mr. Liautey is to make the report on the Paris Agreements for the Finance Committee of the French National Assembly.

The Messages

The Conference received many messages of sympathy and support. We may mention the following:

a telegram from Soviet figures invited to the Conference and who were refused entry visas into France;

a letter from eight British Labour Party M.P.s;

messages from French public figures, including Mr. Joseph Paul-Boncour, former Prime Minister; Mr. Albert Forcinal, Deputy connected with the Radical Party, former Government Minister; Mr. Jules Moch and Mr. Marcel-Edmond Naegelen, both Socialist Deputies and former Government Ministers; and Mr. Jacques Soustelle, Deputy, former Government Minister.

Closing Statement

The European Conference for negotiation on the German question and disarmament notes that the London and Paris Agreements would have extremely serious repercussions on negotiations and the easing of international tension, the need for which is recognised today. These conventions would hinder East-West agreement on Germany and would result in setting up two opposed German states, two opposed German armies, two coalitions which would inevitably lead the world into an arms race and perhaps even further. In this way the possibilities offered by the rejection of E.D.C. and by the progress made in the United Nations on disarmament and atomic energy would be jeopardised. Such possibilities exist, particularly in relation to the important question of the holding of free, all-German elections.

The Conference calls on public opinion, politicians and governments to realise how dangerous the situation is and to have no illusions on the possibility of bringing about a relaxation of tension by a policy of threats.

It asks that first of all, and without encroaching on the rights of each government and state, everything should be done to find means of promoting the reunification of Germany by free and secret elections, the conclusion of the peace treaty with Germany and of the Austrian state treaty, and general, simultaneous and controlled disarmament — aims which are obviously incompatible with German rearmament in any form.

The Conference particularly draws the attention of the German people to the inevitable consequences of the London and Paris Agreements, the adoption of which would in fact eliminate for a very long time any chance of reunifying Germany.

It invites the peoples and governments of all countries to do their utmost to take or help forward measures which can give negotiation priority and to oppose any act which would bar the road to it.

This declaration was read by Mr. Bovard, the Swiss writer.

Forthcoming East-West Meeting

The Conference approved the text of a message to the Soviet delegates and charged its Bureau to organise a meeting between a delegation from the Conference and the Soviet and other European delegates who were unable to obtain entry visas from the French Government.

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Festival Meeting of the Resistance in Vienna

Condemns German Rearmament

From November 24 to 28 the delegates of former resistance fighters from 19 European countries met in Vienna at the Resistance Festival Meeting to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Liberation.

It is impossible to give the long list of political and cultural figures from all circles and of all points of view who took part in this demonstration or gave it their support. We shall therefore confine ourselves to mentioning the most noteworthy, e. g. Mr. Vincent Auriol, former President of the French Republic; Mr. Edouard Herriot, Honorary President of the French National Assembly; Mr. Ferrucio Parri, former Italian Prime Minister; Dr. Heinemann, former Government Minister in the German Federal Republic; Mr. Albert Forcinal, former French Government Minister; Mr. Pablo Casals, who sent a message of support to the Meeting. The Paris Municipal Council and the General Council of the Seine Department each sent six delegates of all political tendencies.

A manifesto was adopted with only four abstentions. It says:

"The Resistance says no to any rearmament of Germany in the present situation. It must oppose any unilateral act or measure which can aggravate the division between our countries. It must try to obtain the immediate opening of negotiations between the Governments concerned.

"The Resistance rests convinced that East-West agreement is possible on these two points:

"The conclusion of a Peace Treaty with a Germany unified by democratic methods.

"Ensuring collective security and avoiding a new armaments race, prelude to another war . . ."

The West and East German delegates issued a joint declaration in which they give the following warning:

"We would point out that, whenever it has considered it to be necessary, German militarism has broken agreements and has failed to honour its signature in order, through the policy of strength, to suppress the freedom and independence of the peoples."

WORLD CONGRESS OF MOTHERS AGAINST WAR IN 1955

At its last meeting the Bureau of the Women's International Democratic Federation decided to convene, in 1955, a world congress of mothers to defend their children, against war, and for disarmament and friendship between the peoples.

The Bureau's statement declares that if the London and Paris Agreements were ratified "half a million German mothers would immediately see their sons putting on uniform again, ready to be hurled into a new war, and the same fate would soon overtake thousands of mothers in Italy, Great Britain, France and other countries."

The Bureau's statement ends by saying:

"The voice of all the world's mothers, which will make itself heard powerfully from the rostrum of the Congress of Mothers, will make an effective contribution to the establishment of a lasting peace."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Letters, Telegrams and Resolutions*

On the initiative of the Czechoslovak Peace Committee hundreds of resolutions are being adopted, calling on the peoples of Europe, especially the French and German peoples, to do all in their power to prevent the restoration of German militarism.

For example, the workers in the big factories of France and West Germany are receiving many letters, telegrams and resolutions from Czechoslovakia. These are being sent by workers, peasants, apprentices, pupils and teachers, groups and associations of intellectuals, artists, athletes, women and young people, and others.

Between November 17th and December 1st 37,000 messages were sent abroad through the intermediary of the Czechoslovak Peace Committee. They called for the fraternal support of workers abroad in the struggle against the ratification of the Paris agreements.

"We wish to have friendly relations with the German people as with the people of France, for this friendship is the guarantee of a lasting peace", says the Appeal sent by the personnel of the Varnsdorf Marine Engineering Factory to the workers of the Bremen Marine Construction and Engineering Factory at Bremen-Vegesack and of the arsenal at Toulouse.

At a recent meeting in Prague the women of the region adopted a resolution which says:

"We call on all the women of France, Great Britain, West Germany and the other countries to make every effort to prevent the ratification of the Paris agreements."

Ruzena Krasova, Chairman of the People's Committee of Lidice — the martyred village destroyed by Hitler's troops — declared:

Letters and resolutions pile up in the office of the Czechoslovak Peace Committee . . .

"We are not and cannot remain indifferent to the fact that in a neighbouring country, West Germany, Prussian militarism is being restored and that those who destroyed our village and assassinated peace-loving Europeans are again being given commanding posts in the new Wehrmacht.

"We call on you, friends of Oradour in France, we call on all peace-loving people. Do not allow the fascist massacre to be repeated, do not allow the fascist thugs to fire once again on our men, women and children . . ."

Academician F. Travnicek, Rector of Brno University, sent an appeal condemning German rearmament to the Rectors of the Universities of London, Paris and Frankfurt.

A Catholic Bishop, the Right Reverend Lazik, has sent a message to all churchmen in Western Europe, especially those of Germany and France, in which he says:

"We beg you to do all in your power to prevent the remilitarisation of West Germany and to work for the beginning of world-wide disarmament. Let your governments meet the Soviet Government and those of the other States and peoples of Europe. Let them not spurn the conciliatory hand that is held out to them."

Mr. Gustav Sicber, the Chief Rabbi, stated:

"I speak from the bottom of my heart to all my fellow-believers and their religious heads and to all eminent religious and political figures and call upon them, in their own interest, to do all they can to prevent the threatening militarisation of West Germany . . ."

GERMANY:

In West Germany there is a growing number of demonstrations and actions against remilitarisation and particularly against the London and Paris Agreements.

Solingen: A demonstration of 1500 young people against German rearmament took place in a big hall decorated with banners bearing the following slogans: "Rearmament prevents peaceful reunification"; "We reject the Paris Agreements and demand an international agreement"; "Let your conscience speak and not atomic bombs"... Young trade unionists, and young Protestants and Catholics carried posters and banners protesting against the planned reintroduction of military service.

Stuttgart: More that 1200 young people demonstrated against the ratification of the Paris Agreements.

In the union journal, *Der Grundstein*, the leadership of the Building Workers', Quarry Workers' and Labourers' Trade Union has protested against the construction of barracks in the German Federal Republic and stated that the Nazi slogan "Guns before butter" must not come back in the new form "Barracks before houses".

Duisburg: On behalf of the 3,000 organised workers they represent, full-time officials and shop stewards of the Building Workers', Quarry Workers' and Labourers' Trade Union asked the local committee of the German Federation of Trade Unions and all industrial workers' trade unions to take part in a great protest demonstration against recruitment.

Bielefeld: The workers of the Lohmann factories, who up till now have been manufacturing bicycle components, have refused to make ammunition belts for machine-guns.

Herne: A workers' conference for peace, attended by trade union officials, called on the factories to send deputations to the Members of the Federal Parliament.

In the port of Duisburg-Ruhrort it has been decided not to unload any war supplies.

Dortmund: A plenary Engineering Shop Stewards' Conference, representing 47,000 engineers, decided to organise a mass

ITALY: *Local, Factory and Village Meetings*

On December 2 the Italian National Peace Committee held a meeting in Rome which was reported by the country's most important daily papers.

During the meeting the Italian delegates to the Stockholm session of the World Council of Peace gave a report back, stressing particularly that the new forces that have joined the Peace Movement give it a constantly growing importance and authority.

The Italian National Committee was able to say the same of Italy. It also brought out two other aspects of the present situation: on the one hand, the tenseness and urgency of the struggle because of the determination of the Governments of Western Europe to ratify the London and Paris Agreements quickly; and on the other, the great development of activity of various kinds to prevent the ratification of these agreements by the Italian Government. This activity shows the growing determination of the Italian people to oppose German rearmament.

The peace meetings which have taken place in every province of Italy from Piedmont to Sicily brought together representative persons from every section of the population. These assemblies were preceded in every case by local meetings, factory meetings, meetings in blocks of flats and in the rural centres at which delegates to the provincial assemblies were elected. Everywhere the main objective was the struggle against the ratification of the London and Paris agreements.

Alongside this action, the Italian Peace Committee distributed 100,000 copies of a folder commenting on the main articles of the agreements.

In certain regions, Siena, Spezzia and Forli, for example, statements were collected in notebooks to be read later at rallies. Elsewhere, as in Naples and Rome, magistrates and barristers met to examine the legal aspects of the Agreements. Their economic consequences will be studied at a meeting in Milan of workers, engineers, economists and employers with the determination to protect Italian industry. The campaign of petitions, postcards or deputations to the members of parliament, asking them to reject the agreements, is going ahead everywhere.

A rally in favour of disarmament was held in Naples on November 15 and 16. Those present included delegates from 17 provinces together with Mr. Sereni, Mr. Pajetta and Don Andrea Gaggero from the leadership of the Italian Peace Movement and Mr. G. Amendola, Mr. Girolamo Li Causi and Mr. F. Gullo, all Members of Parliament. Although the theme of the rally was the terrible floods in Salerno, the delegates were apprised of the great danger of the rearmament of West Germany to the whole world in their examination of the problem of disarmament.

The Italian Peace Committee proposed the holding of a great day of struggle against German rearmament on Sunday, December 12. Rallies and demonstrations against German rearmament took place in a number of cities and towns: Rome, Milan, Genoa, Pisa, Parma, Bari, Cosenza, Ancona, Bologna, Salerno and others. Eminent public figures were present including Don Andrea Gaggero, Senators Donini and Sereni and Mr. Pajetta, Mr. Mancini, Mr. Giolitti, Mr. Targetti, all Members of Parliament.

Demonstrations against Remilitarisation and Recruitment

demonstration for the protection of young men against rearmament and recruitment.

Stuttgart: Dr. D. Heinemann, President of the German People's Party and President of the Synod of the German Evangelical Church, writes in the last number of the review, *Die Stimme der Gemeinde* (The Voice of the Community):

"The ratification of the Paris Agreements must be prevented! If it is not prevented, there is no chance of getting out of the impasse and preventing the division from being aggravated."

Bamberg: The Bamberg Municipal Council having decided to prevent the digging of mine emplacements under the three bridges over the Regbitz, these bridges were placed under the permanent supervision of the police to prevent the teams of sappers sent by the occupation forces from accomplishing this destructive work.

Leverkusen: Two hundred Evangelical Pastors met at a session of the "Ecclesiastical Fraternity" (Kirchliche Bruderschaft). To all the party groups in the Federal Parliament they sent a resolution in which they oppose the restoration of military service in the German Federal Republic.

"My grandfather wore the Kaiser's uniform, my father wore the Führer's uniform — I'm for civvies."

West German Peace Committee folder against the setting up of the Wehrmacht.

FRANCE: *45 Departmental Rallies on Two Sundays*

On December 12th, after a regional meeting organised by the Departmental Peace Committees of Eastern France, 5000 people marched through the streets of Nancy, the capital of Lorraine, and had an enthusiastic reception from the people. The demonstration was preceded by an international meeting in which delegates from Great Britain, the German Federal Republic, Belgium, Italy and Luxemburg took part.

The rally took place at 3 p.m. The flags of the ten countries invited were borne at the head of the long column of marchers. The people of Nancy gave a warm welcome to the representatives of the peace forces of the German Federal Republic.

During the rally a message from Mr. Edouard Herriot, Honorary President of the French National Assembly, was read. The speakers included a Socialist (S.F.I.O.) doctor; the Vice-Chairman of the Vosges Federation of the Popular Republican Movement (M.R.P.); the Communist Deputy for the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle; a barrister in the Nancy Appeals Court, member of General de Gaulle's Rally of the French People; a representative of the iron ore miners of Lorraine; a Catholic teacher from Nancy Grammar School, and others. The Vice-Chairman of the Meurthe-et-Moselle Federation of the Radical Party sent a message of support.

At the end of the rally Mrs. Isabelle Blume, Secretary of the World Council of Peace, welcomed this important demonstration of unity.

Twenty-six other Departmental rallies attended by thousands of delegates took place the same day. The Sunday previous there had been 18 other rallies, including that held in Paris. These rallies, like that held in Nancy, were demonstrations of the French people's united opposition to German rearmament.

Many elected representatives — municipal councillors, county councillors, Deputies and Senators — of all political viewpoints took part in them or sent messages of support. To give one example: 118 mayors and 330 municipal councillors of the Department of Lot-et-Garonne signed the appeal for the Agen rally.

There is a daily growing flow of deputations to the Deputies from the factories, localities and villages; others are being elected to go to the National Assembly at the time of the debate on the ratification of the London and Paris Agreements.

In every part of the country there are many examples of public figures of all political viewpoints making joint appeals to the people to take sustained action.

In this atmosphere of intense activity in which French national unity against any form of German rearmament is being forged, the referendum launched by the French Peace Movement is continuing; already, by December 10, 2,500,000 signatures had been collected.

BRITAIN: *Deputations and Petitions*

Immediately following the British Congress for World Security at the end of October the campaign in Britain against German Rearmament was much intensified. The main forms of action developed were:

Deputations to M.P.s, prepared by petitions, by postcard campaigns, by telegrams from factories and organisations.

Actions by branches of organisations, particularly trade union, labour and co-operative organisations.

Letters to the Press and advertisements in the Press.

Organisation of local and regional conferences initiated by or associated with trade union and labour organisations.

Both Government and Opposition leaders had agreed to debate the London and Paris Agreements in Parliament without taking a vote. All those who understand the perils of the Agreements rallied to prevent this. Committees, organisations, individuals made great efforts in the few days given before the debate to make their views known to the Members of Parliament.

In Birmingham, for example, the delegates of the Trades Council sent 40 individual post cards to their M.P.s. Others signed a joint letter. The Birmingham people's Peace Committee arranged deputations to all Birmingham M.P.s.

Councillor Percy Belcher, General Secretary of the Tobacco Workers, and Councillor Edward Dixon, President of the Coventry Trades Council, both members of the World Council of Peace, sent a letter to all Labour M.P.s whose constituencies had opposed German rearmament, urging them to insist on a division and vote against ratification.

The British Peace Committee issued an "appeal to every member of the House of Commons when German rearmament comes up for division to stand up and vote against it".

The pressure of public opinion, especially in the Labour movement, was irresistible. In spite of orders from their leaders six Labour M.P.s forced a division, in which 56 per cent of the members of the House of Commons abstained from voting.

This moral defeat for the supporters of German Rearmament has been followed by increased activity to ensure that, though ratified by the British Parliament, the Agreements are defeated — just as E.D.C., ratified by Britain in 1952, was nevertheless rejected in the end.

For example, only three days after the vote in Parliament the Annual Conference of the London Co-operative Party, representing 1,100,000 members, unanimously opposed the rearming of West Germany. By a majority the conference also called for the withdrawal of all American armed forces from the British Isles.

Engineering unions in Rotherham, Birmingham, Paisley and South Wales, clerks and administrative workers in Ashton-under-Lyme, painters in Newcastle-on-Tyne and in Sheffield, Co-operators in Broadstairs, are among those who are demanding action by the Labour Movement against rearming Germany. In Scotland, the miners' union in Ponfeigh is organising a conference of all labour organisations in South Lanarkshire; the Trades Council and Labour Party in Kirkcaldy organised a similar conference on 12 December.

The growing power of this movement of opinion is shown by the statement of Mr. C.R. Attlee in Parliament on 7 December in favour of Four Power talks before ratification and in the broadcast speech of Dr. Edith Summerskill on 11 December, in which as chairman of the Labour Party she underlined the urgent need for negotiations.

DENMARK

An appeal against German rearmament, issued by a great number of public figures of differing political opinions, has met with the enthusiastic support of the Danish people and brought about many protests to the Government and Parliament. These include letters, telegrams, resolutions and statements. Tuesday, December 6 was made a day of protest, with unprecedented success.

It is unanimously agreed that never had such a crowd of deputations from all sections of the people come to protest to the members of parliament as on this question of German rearmament. The serious faces of these people, wanting to make the Danish people's voice heard, expressed the profound anxiety felt by all intelligent men and women at the prospects held out by the revival of German militarism.

For four or five hours deputations from all over Denmark handed protests bearing thousands of signatures to the representatives of the various parliamentary groups. Among the first to be received was one from Odense with Mrs. Karen Busk at its head; the protest declaration they presented bore the signatures of 4,500 citizens of Odense and Kerteminde.

A women's deputation, including the wife of Mr. Stauning, the former Prime Minister, presented a list bearing the signatures of 2,130 women from different regions and different milieux. A deputation from Horsens handed over 1,454 signatures, and there was also a deputation from the Resistance there to protest. Many deputations came from the trade unions and the factories, and the intellectuals also signed in their hundreds.

Lastly, many individual protests were made to Parliament, orally and by letter.

FINLAND

The Executive Committee of the Finnish Peace Committee has just issued a statement calling on the people of Finland to support the opposition of the peoples of Europe to any German rearmament. The conclusion of an agreement on collective security in Europe, the statement goes on, is indispensable to guarantee peace in Europe and the future of Finland.

NORWAY

A protest demonstration against the remilitarisation of West Germany and its admission into the North Atlantic bloc took place in Oslo on December 5th.

The demonstrators marched through the main streets bearing the Norwegian flag and banners and then held a great protest meeting in front of the Parliament.

NETHERLANDS

In Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague, Leyden and many other towns and villages a successful signature campaign is being carried on in protest at the restoration of the Wehrmacht. The Dutch Peace Council has also issued a national manifesto designed to enlighten public opinion on what is contained in the London and Paris Agreements. The Executive Committee of the United Trade Union Confederation (Eenheid Wah Centrale) has issued an appeal to Dutch workers asking their support for all steps taken in opposition to West German rearmament and in favour of negotiations for the peaceful settlement of international differences.

The *Dat Nooit Weer* (Never Again) group has convened a conference in Amsterdam and says in its appeal:

"Many people think that the London and Paris Agreements would certainly not lead to a peaceful settlement of the German question but would, on the contrary, aggravate the tension between East and West and render imminent the launching of a third world war.

"Consequently another way must be found, a way which on the one hand will lead to a settlement of the German question which is acceptable to all parties, and help to create a Europe free from threats, on the other . . ."

BELGIUM

A Belgian youth conference "for the peaceful co-existence of all the countries of Europe, for a Europe united on a peaceful basis" was held in Liège during November. Representatives from various Belgian youth organisations took part in the conference, during which Mr. Ramaker, Socialist, Mr. Verdoot, the leader of the Belgian Popular Youth Movement, Mr. van Lird, Catholic, and others addressed those present. The speakers dealt with the problems of young people, the maintenance of peace and the struggle against the restoration of German militarism. After these problems had been discussed in the plenary sessions and in the commissions, the following appeal and resolutions were adopted unanimously:

An appeal to the young people of Europe to unite in the struggle for peace and peaceful co-existence;

a resolution on the German question;

a resolution on support for the underdeveloped countries;

a resolution on cultural exchanges between the countries of Europe.

The Conference reaffirmed the determination of young Belgians to prevent the revival of German militarism and to attain a peaceful settlement of the German question, and adopted a proposal to organise a conference of European youth for peace and friendship in 1955 and a Festival of European youth on the same theme.

A Day in the Life of an Ottawa Housewife

The following is from a letter to the Canadian Peace Congress by Mrs. Edith Holton of Ottawa:

"Today I phoned my M.P., Mr. J. T. Richard, and told him I thought the Canadian people should be consulted about German rearmament. I also wrote him a letter asking him to consider this a humanitarian problem — not political, and to please advise our Prime Minister to take the lead among the nations against the rearmament of Germany. I enclosed the Proclamation of Intent to Keep Faith with Those Who Died in Two World Wars and sent the letter special delivery.

"I also wrote to Captain David Burgess who is candidate for mayor of Ottawa, enclosing the Proclamation of Intent . . .

"On my way to the post office uptown I stopped to ask a woman poppyseller what she thought about German rearmament. She said she didn't know — she hoped it would never be used. As a woman she agreed that wars are wrong — they fill our hospitals and insane asylums and kill off our youth. A man came to speak with her and as my bus came along I gave her the Proclamation and when the bus passed by I saw them both reading it . . .

"Later at a bus stop I chatted with a veteran. I told him I thought the Canadian people should be consulted on the subject and he agreed.

"I gave him the Proclamation to read — he was going to work on guard duty and would have time to read it. I left a Proclamation on the bus I travelled on and gave one to a young man also who was sitting behind me.

"I wrote a letter to the *Ottawa Citizen* and sent the Proclamation also to the *Smith Falls Record* and to an alderman in Ottawa East.

"I also sent it to Prof. Breton in France and to World Citizens in the U.S.A.

"A student at Carleton College is going to post it up on the bulletin board.

"All for now."

HUNGARY

On their return from Stockholm the Hungarian delegates to the World Council session reported on the work of the session at a press conference. Eminent Hungarians attended the press conference including Mr. Sandar Ronaï, President of the National Assembly, Mrs. Anna Ratko, Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, and Mr. Laszlo Nanasi, Vice-President of the Hungarian Peace Council.

In her speech Mrs. Janos Bugar, Secretary of the Hungarian Peace Council, emphasised that the whole attention of the Hungarian Peace Movement must now be concentrated on the campaign against German rearmament and the ratification of the London and Paris agreements.

The vitality of the Movement and its influence in the country are to be seen in the many activities of the Hungarian Peace Council during these last few weeks.

One day after the publication of Professor Joliot-Curie's statement on the London and Paris agreements peace meetings were organised in towns and villages, in factories, mines and mills throughout the country.

One hundred thousand copies of this statement were issued and were distributed to the furthest corners of Hungary. As soon as it became known thousands upon thousands of letters and telegrams protesting against German rearmament began to come in, especially from the professors, rectors and deans of the various universities of Budapest and other towns. Many persons in the arts and sciences, including Academician J. Trenesenyi-Waldapfel, sent letters.

When the Hungarian delegation to the recent Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which took place at Evanston in the U.S.A., returned to Hungary, meetings were organised in the capital and in many towns in the provinces. The Calvinist Bishops, the Right Reverend Janos Peter and the Right Reverend Albert Bereczky, and the Lutheran Bishops, the Right Reverend Lajos Veto and the Right Reverend Laszlo Deszeer, reported back on the Assembly.

A few weeks ago, the Hungarian Peace Council began sending a fortnightly bulletin on the World Peace Movement into the factories. The factory peace committees inform the workers of the international news and comment on the most interesting and recent events. These news bulletins, called "Speaking News" or "Peace News", are spoken through a megaphone and are often quoted in factory and provincial newspapers.

The Hungarian Council publishes a magazine on foreign policy which is discussed at joint meetings between readers and authors.

A great photography competition was begun last Spring and has just come to an end; many prizes were awarded.

Every three months the Hungarian Journalists' Association and the Peace Council award a big prize for the article or reportage, drawing or photo which has been of most assistance to the Movement in its propaganda work.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

At the present time the main work of the South African Peace Council is opposition to German rearmament. Since the last session of the World Council of Peace this work has been intensified and 10,000 copies of a booklet published by the Council have been sold with great success. The Board of Jewish Deputies of South Africa, which had always held aloof from the Peace Movement, was very interested in the booklet and ordered 500 copies. A public meeting in Capetown condemned German rearmament in a resolution which was then published in the form of a letter in the *Cape Times*. This resulted in a prolonged discussion in the correspondence columns of that newspaper.

On December 1 the Democratic Jewish Association held a meeting against German rearmament in the Johannesburg Town Hall, and the monthly, *Fighting Talk*, devoted its last number to this.

Alongside these activities, the South African Peace Council is conducting a campaign to broaden the local Peace Committees. This campaign, says the Council, will be intensified during the preparations for the World Assembly.

CONFERENCE OF ASIAN COUNTRIES

On the threshold of the New Year the Indian Preparatory Committee for the Conference of Asian countries is stepping up its work in preparation for the conference which is to be held at the end of February or in March 1955.

The idea of the Conference was mooted for the first time by the Asian delegates to the Stockholm Meeting for the Relaxation of International Tension in June 1954. Since then, the Indian delegation, which was given the task of organising the holding of the Conference in Delhi, has had great success in its work.

A Preparatory Committee was set up and it includes Members of Parliament and State Legislatures of various political parties, economists, literateurs, artists, educationists, lawyers, doctors, trade unionists, peasant leaders, representatives of women's organisations, etc.

The Committee has just written to public figures and to the National Peace Movements of the countries of Asia presenting the aims of the Conference and a draft agenda and pointing out that "the draft is naturally subject to amendment in the light of suggestions received hereafter."

This draft deals with three sets of questions:

POLITICAL QUESTIONS

Colonialism and foreign interference in the internal affairs of Asian countries;

The admission of the People's Republic of China to its rightful place in the U.N.O.;

The prohibition and control of weapons of mass destruction;

The danger to Asia from military alliances and pacts which divide the countries of Asia;

Racial discrimination;

Discrimination against Asians in the matter of immigration, etc. and the problems of equal rights for immigrant citizens.

CULTURAL QUESTIONS

The study of the common cultural heritage of Asian countries with a view to reviving and strengthening old cultural ties;

The preservation of our national cultures;

The development of cultural exchanges between the countries of Asia.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

The development of trade relations between Asian countries, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit;

The economic development of Asian countries and the raising of living standards;

The status of women and the protection of children.

The aim of the Conference would be, as the Preparatory Committee says:

"To afford an opportunity for an exchange of views on the common problems affecting Asia. Such an exchange of views would assist in securing greater common understanding and close contact in all fields among the people of Asia, and would thus help in lessening present world tension. It would assist in creating that climate of peace for which we all yearn.

"The Conference would aim, above all, to help in bringing about a greater understanding of the problems of Asia and to further a peaceful and co-operative effort, in common with other countries of the world, in solving these Asian problems. To this end, the Conference would place at the head of its agenda a discussion of the Five Principles for peaceful co-existence contained in the recent joint declaration of the Prime Ministers of India and China.

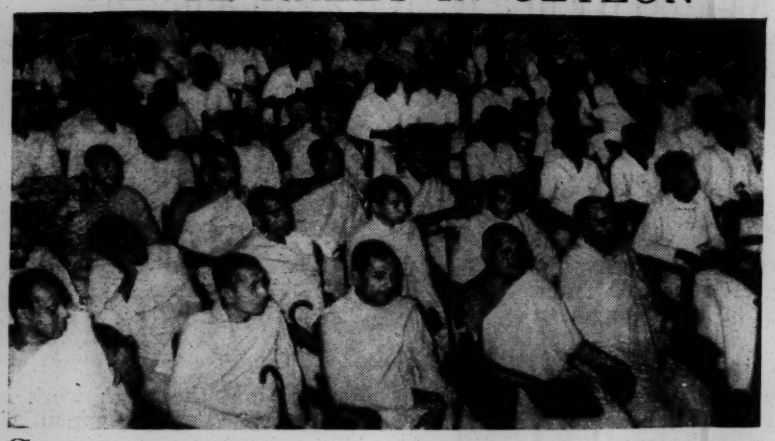
The Indian National Peace Congress

A national congress for peace and Asian solidarity will be held in Madras on December 30, declared Dr. Kitchlew, President of the All-India Peace Council, at a press conference in New Delhi on December 2. It will be attended by 1,500 delegates and observers from every State of India, he added.

Referring to the decisions adopted at the recent Stockholm session of the World Council of Peace, Dr. Kitchlew expressed his confidence that "all sections of Indian opinion fully support the decisions". The resolution of the session on Asian questions had provided a full programme for peace in Asia, he said. He also stressed the immense contribution of the five principles of peaceful co-existence to the cause of peace and in allaying the threat of war caused by the recent London and Paris agreements on rearming West Germany.

The World Council of Peace will be represented at the Indian National Peace Congress by its General Secretary, Mr. Jean Laffitte.

PEACE RALLY IN CEYLON



Support for the Five Principles of the Nehru—Chou En-lai agreement and the demand that the Government of Ceylon should also regulate its foreign relations on the basis of these principles were expressed at a mass rally held in the Town Hall, Colombo, on November 18th under the auspices of the Ceylon Peace Council. It was attended by people from many sections of society.

The meeting also called upon the Government "to declare its categorical opposition to S.E.A.T.O." which it branded as "a danger to the peace of Asia".

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the withdrawal of the British bases from Ceylon as the continuation of these bases is a threat to the peace and independence of the island and brings it into S.E.A.T.O. indirectly.

The fourth resolution adopted by the meeting calls for the banning of the H-bomb and all other weapons of mass destruction.

The rally was presided over by Mr. Narawila Dharmaratne, and the speakers included Mr. S. D. Bandaranayake M.P.

Increased Foreign Intervention in Taiwan

At its last session the World Council of Peace adopted a resolution on "the situation created in various parts of Asia by foreign pressure and the system of military blocs and coalitions" which says: "The World Council of Peace calls on all the peoples of Asia and the world to demand the ending of foreign intervention on the Chinese territory of Taiwan (Formosa)."

But on December 2, 1954, the United States Government signed a "mutual security treaty" with Chiang Kai-shek in which it undertakes to "defend" Taiwan to prevent its liberation by the People's Republic of China, although Taiwan is indisputably part of Chinese territory.

This step raised a wave of protest throughout the world, for it is obvious that the treaty increases the danger of a new war in the Far East.

It is pointed out that, in accordance with this treaty, the United States could set up military bases on Taiwan in opposition to the demand of peace-loving peoples the world over.

On this subject Professor Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the Chinese Committee for the Defence of World Peace, has made a statement in which he says:

"The Chinese are profoundly aware of the fact that, to preserve peace, we must oppose any aggression and that as long as aggressive forces exist peace is threatened."

The Peace Committee of the Paraguayans resident in Buenos Aires, which was very active at the time of the campaign for the Stockholm Appeal, has just started a campaign of individual and collective petitions for the banning of nuclear weapons and the negotiated settlement of international differences.

Brazilians Urge Resumption of East-West Trade

A growing number of Brazilians are urging the expansion of commercial relations and particularly the restoration of normal relations with the countries of the East.

Mr. Milho Sevalho, the representative of national commercial bodies in the Federal Supply and Price Commission, said:

"I state once again that I fully support the resumption of trading relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe, and with China. Brazil must seek new outlets for her products."

Mr. Admundo Barbosada Silva, a minister in the Federal Government, had the following to say:

"It is not in our interest to hinder the export of our products to certain countries. We can export coffee, cocoa and perhaps hides to the Soviet Union. This year we received 180,000 tons of wheat from the Soviet Union via Finland."

Mr. Cid Silveira, journalist, writes in *Folha da Manha:*

"They are now planning to send to Moscow a semi-official mission composed of workers' representatives, industrialists and trade specialists to study the conditions of the restoration of trade relations with the Soviet Union. We must not consider the differences between East and West — in which, of course, Brazil plays a part — to be an obstacle to trade."

Mr. Marcelino Martins Filho, President of the Rio de Janeiro Coffee Exchange, said:

"Brazil must trade with the Soviet Union and intensify her trade with countries which already maintain commercial relations with us."

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From Sao Paulo, where many Japanese emigres reside, the Japanese-Brazilian Peace Council has just sent us the first number of its information bulletin. It is mainly devoted to the commemoration of the ninth anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima and to current activities for the banning of the hydrogen bomb in Japan and Brazil.

Australia Prepares for the World Assembly

At a recent meeting the Executive Committee of the Australian Peace Council studied the international situation and the tasks and duties before the Australian Peace Movement arising from it.

The Executive Committee decided that the most important tasks were:

1) The intensification of the struggle against the system of military blocs and coalitions.

2) Even greater support for the action of the peace forces to secure disarmament and the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction.

3) The preparation of Australian participation in the Assembly of the Representatives of the Forces of Peace in the first half of 1955.

Addressing the State Peace Councils on this subject, the Executive Committee declared:

"The attention of all States should be drawn to the forthcoming World Assembly of Peace, and to the material issued and to be issued by the World Council of Peace on this meeting. We ask all States to begin planning for this Assembly now, paying particular attention to the greatest possible broadness of sponsoring committees and delegations."

First Anniversary of the Washington-Madrid Military Pact

APPEALS TO THE PEOPLE AND YOUTH OF SPAIN

The information bulletin of the Spanish Peace Movement — *España y la Paz* — announces in a beautifully presented number that it will again appear regularly.

This number contains an appeal of the Spanish Peace Council issued on the first anniversary of the signing of the Washington-Madrid bilateral pact. The appeal, which is signed by Dr. José Giral, President of the Spanish Peace Council, and by the other members, says:

"The military bases make Spain an advance post of the strategy of aggression and are transforming it more and more into a perfect target for destruction and death...

"In such a desperate situation, the Spanish Peace Council, which is composed of Spaniards of the most diverse views whose sole aim is their common love of Spain and of the sacred cause of peace, calls once again on all Spaniards to take a clear stand against the continuation of a pact which is a betrayal of Spain's interests. This they can do in different ways, each according to his feelings and convictions."

In an appeal to young people the Spanish Federation of United Socialist Youth condemns the serious consequences of the pact — starvation and misery, the confiscation of land for the construction of foreign aggressive bases, etc. In conclusion, the appeal asks all young workers, peasants, students, soldiers and officers to protest against the pact in every possible way.

OUTLAW WAR!

The United States organisation *Everybody's Committee to Outlaw War* has proposed to the United States Senate and House of Representatives that they adopt a joint resolution on peace, the text of which follows:

PREAMBLE

According to the testimony of the scientists who created nuclear weapons and the militarists who used them, and according to the evidence of our own eyes, we know

1) That weapons like the hydrogen and atom bombs threaten world annihilation.
2) That there is no defense against their deadly effects.
3) That there can be no victors in a third world war.

Therefore be it

RESOLVED

That we, the members of the United States Congress, recognise and accept the supreme challenge of our age — the need to put an end to all war — and urge the following action by the governing bodies of all the nations of the earth —

1) That war be outlawed as a means of settlement of disputes between nations.
2) That any nation that refuses to outlaw war shall be declared an OUTLAW NATION.
3) That war is herein defined as the violation of the national boundaries or sovereign rights of any nation by any nation by means of armed force.

Be it further

RESOLVED

That this resolution be forwarded for immediate consideration to

a) The United Nations.
b) All heads of state throughout the earth.

And be it further

RESOLVED

That within one year of the date of adoption of this resolution we urge the convening of an International Conference of Representatives of All Nations to work out methods

a) Of total disarmament.
b) Of enforcing the outlawing of war.
c) Of dealing with possible outlaw nations.

COVENTRY and STALINGRAD

Issue a Joint Appeal to the United Nations

In a joint appeal, the cities of Coventry and Stalingrad address the United Nations Organisation in the following terms:

We beg to submit to the United Nations Organisation that the cities of Coventry and Stalingrad which suffered tremendous devastation and heavy human losses during the Second World war at the hands of the common enemy — German Fascism — note with great alarm that the peace and security of nations is again being threatened...

We consider that it is our moral duty and right to call on the United Nations Organisation to take necessary measures to secure the banning of atom and hydrogen weapons, to prohibit their production and to secure their complete removal from the armaments of states...

We are firmly convinced that the outlawing of atom and hydrogen weapons would contribute greatly to the peace of the world and result in the immediate release of the tension between the countries.

The citizens of the cities of Coventry and Stalingrad express their hope that this appeal will secure the support of the United Nations Organisation, whose duty is to listen to the voice of the ordinary people who display apprehension for the destiny of the world.

As to Stalingrad and Coventry, who have always stood for peace, they will continue in the future this struggle for peace and friendship among the peoples until final victory for the forces of peace.

John Fennel, Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry. Members of the Coventry City Council: Sidney Stringer; Arthur James Waugh; Eric James Williams; Edward McGarry; Elsie Jones.

Sergei Shapurov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Stalingrad City Soviet of Workers' Deputies. Members of the Executive Committee of the Stalingrad City Soviet of Workers' Deputies: Konstantin Nekrasov; Andrei Zemliansky; Maria Somova; Anatoly Zhdaniuk; Georgi Malinin.

C.I.O. Annual Congress Condemns New Wehrmacht

Just before the French Parliament opened its debate on ratifying the Paris Agreements, under very heavy pressure from the U.S. Secretary of State, messages received from New York announced that the Annual Congress of the C.I.O., 700 delegates representing 5 million trade unionists, had condemned the policy of re-establishing the German Wehrmacht and of arming the dangerous German military clique.

WORLD FEDERATION OF EX-SERVICEMEN STATES ITS POSITION

The General Assembly of the World Federation of Ex-servicemen was held in Vienna from November 29th to December 2nd; it was attended by 150 delegates from 29 countries.

Mr. Vincent Auriol, former President of the French Republic, who was elected Honorary President of the World Federation, pointed out in his speech that "there is only one reasonable way of settling conflicts, and that is frank negotiations based on equitable solutions..."

The Assembly adopted a number of resolutions, in one of which it demands:

"1) Permanent and effective control of all armaments, especially the international control of atomic energy to ensure the banning of atomic weapons and of all weapons of mass destruction.

"2) Simultaneous and progressive reduction of all armaments and armed forces.

"3) The co-ordinated use of atomic energy to improve the standard of living of all peoples and particularly the poorest ones."

In another resolution the Assembly asks all member organisations to get their respective governments to strive for the peaceful settlement of all outstanding differences and to transform the present state of co-existence into effective international co-operation.

STRUGGLE TO BAN ATOMIC WEAPONS CONTINUES

Japan: 150,000 Signatures A Day

The women of Japan have issued a moving appeal to the women of the whole world asking them to step up their struggle for the banning of the manufacture and use of atomic weapons. After recalling the terrible sufferings of the 23 Japanese fishermen who were showered by radioactive dust at the time of the United States atomic experiments on Bikini atoll, the appeal goes on:

"The women united in the Federation of All Japan Women's Organisations, with Mrs. Raicho Hiratsuka as President, have initiated a signature-collecting campaign in the city of Tokyo, demanding the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen bombs. The campaign is being carried on, not only in cities, but also in small agricultural and fishing villages throughout the country. In many places women are in the forefront of this campaign, which is being strongly supported by all sections of the people, including various religious groups. To date more than 20 million signatures have been collected...

"Since the beginning of this year, 120 persons in Hiroshima have died of atomic diseases.

"A medical survey of eleven women, who were pregnant at the time and who were living within 1,100 metres from the site of the explosion, showed that only one out of their eleven children examined at the age of five had a head of normal size and the other children had heads of about the size of a one-year-old baby. Their deformity is only one of the symptoms caused by the atomic bomb.

"The Japanese have been baptised three times by atomic and hydrogen weapons. We, as the only unfortunate victims of these weapons, cannot but appeal to every thinking soul in the world for the prohibition of the production, testing and practical use of such cruel weapons as hydrogen bombs. We demand the immediate stopping of the experiments on the high seas, which threaten the lives, the trade and the food of peaceful and innocent citizens."

The information reaching us from Tokyo on the national signature campaign, which goes on growing, indicates that the recent increase in the number of signatures collected shows an average of 150,000 signatures per day, a figure which is quite without precedent in the peace campaigns conducted hitherto in Japan.

Replying to the message of greetings which the World Council of Peace sent to the first meeting of the Japanese National Council of Signature-collecting Movements against the A and H bombs, Mr. Kaoru Yasui, General Secretary of the Council, says:

"The change in the world situation since the Geneva Conference has given the Japanese people hope. Together with peace-loving people in every country, we are determined to do our utmost for the relaxation of the present international tension and for the co-existence of all nations. The movement against nuclear weapons forms a part of this big peace movement..."

Recommendation Adopted by the Cultural Commission of the World Council of Peace for the Celebration of the Anniversary of the Ajanta Frescoes

The Cultural Commission of the World Council of Peace is happy to learn that the All India Peace Council is planning to celebrate the 1500th Anniversary of the unique frescoes of the Ajanta Caves which epitomise not only the greatness of Indian culture and art but also enshrine a message of Peace.

The Cultural Commission recommends the World Council of Peace to invite the National Peace Committees of all other countries to give every help and co-operation to the Indian Peace Council in order to celebrate this event on a truly international scale worthy of so important an occasion, and to join in the celebrations by holding exhibitions and meetings to mark it.

Stockholm, November 23, 1954

PREPARATIONS FOR POPULAR COMMEMORATION OF THE CULTURAL ANNIVERSARIES

The lively and prolonged discussion on the great cultural anniversaries that took place in the Cultural Commission during the World Council Session at Skansen, Stockholm in November showed how strongly this initiative of the Council has seized the imagination of broad and varied circles.

The six anniversaries which it has been decided to commemorate in 1955 are recalled on this page together with the Cultural Commission's recommendation welcoming the Indian Peace Movement's proposal to celebrate the 1,500th anniversary of the famous frescoes of the Ajanta Caves on which U.N.E.S.C.O. has published a long illustrated report.

The interest aroused by this decision of the World Council enables us to predict that the cultural anniversaries for the year 1955 will be celebrated by important events animated by a spirit of universal brotherhood.

The scope and value of these demonstrations will of course depend on the work of the National Peace Movements which have developed these celebrations on a large scale these last few years. It is nonetheless true that their future work in this field promises to be even more fruitful, as was shown in many interesting speeches by delegates in the Cultural Commission. They emphasised the need for the National Peace Movements to do their utmost to bring big popular and cultural organisations into these celebrations so that they may bring the people and men of culture together.

During these last years the commemoration of the cultural anniversaries has given rise to manifold activities: public meetings, conferences, exhibitions, concerts, dramatic performances, special articles and studies in newspapers and reviews, and so on. This experience will certainly be used next year, but clearly there still exist big possibilities for new and varied activities which can win enthusiastic popular support for these celebrations.

In certain countries the preparations for the 1955 celebrations are already under way; valuable suggestions to help them forward were made in the Commission. For example, in welcoming the choice of Walt Whitman as an important and popular one, the great poet Pablo Neruda made very concrete proposals. He pointed out that all Americans should be asked to join in the celebrations and informed the members of the Commission that a proposal had been made to erect a big monument to Walt Whitman in a Latin American capital. It is now a question of organising a popular competition for the designing of this monument, and Pablo Neruda called on all Latin American intellectuals present at the World Council session to take part in this undertaking. In addition, it was proposed that a big competition be held in Latin America for the best translation of *Leaves of Grass* into Spanish.

It was also pointed out that the poems of Whitman, which have had a strong influence not only on the poets of the English-speaking world but also on those of Latin America, Europe and Asia, are popular and suitable for recitation at big public meetings. A member of the Commission proposed that composers should be asked to set the poems of Whitman to music, especially his *Song of Peace*, and it was also suggested that the National Movements should be sent a list of the songs and cantatas that have already been composed on poems by Whitman.

Proposals were also made for a very wide celebration of the anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen. Danish official circles are already pushing the preparations forward: the Government, the Tourist Service and various writers' associations and friends of Andersen, for example. Foreign guests will be invited to Denmark in the summer of 1955; stamps will be issued; a festival will be held at Odense; and a Danish dramatist has written a new play. Every effort must be made to hold similar celebrations in other countries, to bring the children and parents into them and to promote the idea of world-wide friendship between children around this anniversary, particularly by messages, visits by groups of children, and so on.

These are only a few of the vivid, concrete ideas that were put forward during the discussions in the Commission. It was also suggested that it would be desirable for the Peace Movement in every country to start making contact now with the universities and libraries, writers', artists' and scientists' associations, cultural institutions of various tendencies and intellectuals of all shades of opinion, asking them to take part in one way or another in paying homage to the best representatives of world culture.

Seen in this light, the celebration of the cultural anniversaries for 1955 appears as a new and comforting demonstration of friendship and co-operation between the peoples.

Anniversaries
for 1955

During 1955 throughout the world the peoples will join together in honouring great representatives of their common cultural heritage:

SCHILLER — 150th anniversary of his death

MICKIEWICZ — 100th anniversary of his death

MONTESQUIEU — 200th anniversary of his death

ANDERSEN — 150th anniversary of his birth

CERVANTES — 350th anniversary of the publication of *Don Quixote*

WHITMAN — 100th anniversary of the publication of *Leaves of Grass*

COMMEMORATION OF ARISTOPHANES AND FIELDING
in China

The commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of Henry Fielding and of the 2400th anniversary of the birth of Aristophanes has been organised by Chinese writers', artists' and actors' associations together with the Chinese People's Committee for the Defence of World Peace.

The famous British scientist, Professor J. D. Bernal F.R.S., Vice-President of the World Council of Peace, attended a meeting in honour of Fielding which was held in the Peking Youth Palace. In his speech he said:

"We are here not merely to celebrate Fielding as a writer, as a humanist and as a patriot, but most of all as a hater of war and a lover of peace . . ."

After Professor Bernal the novelist Lao Sheh and the historian Cheng Chen-to gave an appreciation of Fielding's work and its significance.

A number of Fielding's works, including *Joseph Andrews*, *The Life of Jonathan Wild the Great*, and *A Journey from this World to the Next* have been translated into Chinese.

Aristophanes' anniversary was commemorated at a memorial meeting in Peking on November 15th. Many celebrated Chinese literary and artistic figures were present as well as cultural attaches from the foreign diplomatic missions. The speakers paid homage to Aristophanes and emphasised how important it is that he should be commemorated on a world-wide scale. This would broaden the World Peace Movement and encourage men of letters and the theatre to work for the cause of peace.

In China documentary films have been made in order to make Aristophanes known to the public. A volume of his comedies has been published and his life and work have been popularised at many lectures.

Exchanges

A number of Soviet musicians have recently gone on concert tours in Western Europe. The pianists Nina Emilianova and Emil Gillels went to Paris and the violonist David Oistrakh to Sweden and Finland.

The Hungarian pianist Annie Fischer took part in a Beethoven Festival in Paris.

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A group of 27 Soviet artists including David Oistrakh, the dancer Raissa Strutchkova and the singer Vera Firsova gave a series of gala performances in London.

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For the first time an important group of Indonesian artists has visited China and given the Chinese public an opportunity of making first-hand acquaintance with the living art of the Indonesian people; this is the first time that they have been able to meet Chinese dancers, musicians and art lovers. They presented modern and classical dances in the characteristic national style, very expressive and showing close ties with Chinese and Indian culture.

At the same time there was an Indonesian Art Exhibition which also aroused great interest.

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The celebrated French mime Marcel Marceau has taken his company to the German Democratic Republic to give a series of performances in Berlin and a number of other towns.

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After having toured China and Czechoslovakia a group of 130 Romany singers, dancers and musicians from Hungary will give performances in Paris at the beginning of next year.

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Miss Michèle Boussinot, a young French violonist and winner of the last Marguerite Long—Jacques Thibault international competition, has gone to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government which has given her a scholarship to the Moscow Conservatoire.

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Sixty-nine musicians from 23 countries of Europe, Asia and America have already come forward as candidates in the Fifth International Frederick Chopin Competition which will take place from February 22nd to March 21st, 1955, as part of the Second Polish Music Festival. The Jury is composed of eminent Polish and foreign musicologists.

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A student delegation from Helsinki University was invited to go to Leningrad by the A. A. Zdhanov University of that city. In the course of ten days the delegation visited a number of the university's faculties, student hostels and other higher schools in the city. The Finnish students had many talks with their Soviet friends.

The Poets, the People and Peace

The Mexican Studio of Popular Graphic Art, which won one of the International Peace Prizes for 1952, is continuing its work for friendship between the nations and peace. Loyal to the best Mexican traditions, the artists of this group are creating a direct link between the people and poets whose works they publish in the form of wall posters or folders, as our photo shows. They are thus resuming the ancient tradition of "corridos", or popular romances, which enable poetry to become known in the streets and markets, the towns and villages, and enable the ordinary people to read and learn it.

The Venezuelan poet Carlos Augusto Leon, winner of a Peace Gold Medal, chose the folder form for the edition of his "Coplas de la Muerte H y la Vida Popular" (Couplets on Death by Hydrogen Bomb and on the Life of the People). It is illustrated by engravings done by nine artists of the Studio of Popular Graphic Art. The latter has also published a poem by Luis Cordova in memory of the Japanese sailors who suffered from the Bikini experiments. It is in the form of a poster, with illustrations by Beltran.

India: Protest against Restrictions on

PAUL ROBESON AND CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Appreciating the services of Paul Robeson and Charlie Chaplin in the cause of peace and creative endeavour, about 100 film and radio artists, technicians, directors and producers of West Bengal issued an appeal to all lovers of art in the country to protest against the restrictions imposed on them by the rulers of the United States of America.

"They have gagged the voice of Paul Robeson not only in America, but have at length barred the outside world to him," they say in the appeal. "They have similarly barred the door of America to Charlie Chaplin."

"It is the bounden duty," the appeal continues, "of all the art lovers of the world, particularly the artists, to raise their voice against this gross act of ingratitude. The art creations of Paul Robeson and Charlie Chaplin belong to the whole world. We cannot allow anybody to stifle them."

The signatories to the appeal include the film artists:

Sri Malina Devi, Sri Kamal Mitra, Sri Bikash Ray, Sri Uttam Kumar Chattopadhay, Sri Bhanu Bandopadhyay, Sri Suprava Mukherjee, Sri Suchitra Sen, Sri Sisir Mitra, Sri Sandhyarani, Sri Jiban Bose, Sri Ajit Chatterjee, Sri Jahar Ray, and Sri Gurudas Banerjee;

the radio artists:

Sri Satinath Mukherjee, Sri Uptala Sen, Sri Shyamal Mitra, Sri Tarun Banerjee, Sri Dilip Sarkar, Sri Akhil Bandhu Ghosh, Sri Debesh Bagchi, Sri Chitta Ray, Sri Durga Sen and Sri Birendra Kr. Bhadra;

the film directors and scenario writers:

Sri Niren Lahiri, Sri Ardhendu Mukherjee, Sri Prafulla Ray, Sri Nitai Bhattacharyya, Sri Kartick Bose and many others.

Soviet Schoolchildren Exhibit their Work in Paris

With the assistance of the cultural department of the Soviet Embassy and of the Franco-Soviet Friendship Society, the Paris Pedagogical Museum presented an exhibition of Soviet schoolchildrens' art. It contains 150 exhibits by schoolchildren of from 7 to 17 years of age from every part of the Soviet Union. There are drawings, water colours, embroidery, tapestry, wood carvings, etc.

Well-known Figures send Greetings for

1955

Year of the World Assembly of Representatives of all the Forces of Peace

1955 will be the year of the World Assembly of Representatives of all the Forces of Peace which the World Council of Peace has convened for the second half of May.

The following statements made to the Bulletin by well-known figures express the fervent hope that the peoples will make 1955 a year of further great victories for the forces of peace.

The year 1954 has brought great satisfactions to all of us who have worked in the World Peace Movement since its inception.

I am not only thinking of international events that are known to all: the ending of the war in Indo-China and the French victory over the European Defence Community.

I mean that this year has seen a further strengthening of the religious forces which take part in the struggle for peace. The World Assembly of the World Council of Churches, held at Evanston in August 1954, adopted an appeal against weapons of mass destruction, in favour of disarmament and of the struggle to end mistrust between nations. The National Christian Churches of India as a whole and countless ministers of different religions from many countries, together with their congregations, have this year joined the Peace Movement.

I greet 1955 in the firm hope that the Christian world as a whole will rise up united against war atrocities and demand confidence between the governments and negotiation on the basis of this mutual confidence.

The forces of peace are as the sands of the sea and they cannot — even the smallest part of them — remain inactive. They will grow and new victories await them in 1955.

Believers of all countries in the world and of all religions, we shall be united in the struggle for peace!

The Metropolitan Nikolai (U.S.S.R.)

The New Year brings the peoples a new hope.

If the forces of the people have been able to put an end to the dirty war in Indo-China, why should they not be able to end the armed oppression of the peoples of Asia, Africa and the other colonies?

The peoples of Europe, who foiled the projected European Defence Community, are quite right in their conviction that the peoples can also frustrate any treaty or agreement, whatever its form, aimed at restoring the German Wehrmacht and launching another war.

If the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence have been accepted and supported by the main countries of Asia and by the Asian peoples, similarly in Europe and the other parts of the world it is possible to establish zones of peace and a system of collective security by negotiation between the great powers.

Let peace, democracy and unity be restored in Germany and Korea by great power negotiation!

General peace and security — that is the new hope that 1955 brings us!

Hu Yu-tze

Member of the National People's Congress (China)

We look forward to the year 1955 with confidence and determination. We know that the proposals for peace which we have advocated for six years are essential for the economic and political welfare of the Canadian people. The Canadian economy is facing increasing depression which can be solved only by peace and unhampered world trade.

We will in the coming year organise a National Congress for Peace which will also prepare a representative group to support the world meeting which is being planned.

This is the year in which we shall decisively turn the tide for peace.

James G. Endicott

Chairman,
Canadian Peace Congress

The year 1954 has brought glorious victories for the Peace Movement. The predictions of the Peking Peace Conference have been fulfilled. Peaceful negotiations have achieved the cease-fires in Korea and Indo-China. The Prime Ministers of India and China have joined hands to fight for peace and have laid down the foundation for the peaceful co-existence of not only the Asian nations but all nations. Burma and Indonesia have endorsed the charter of co-existence sponsored by the two great countries, India and China. It is hoped that the other nations will follow suit.

In Europe, too, the Peace Movement has won major victories, and they have made history for the will of the people of Great Britain and France. We are happy that the past is assurance enough for the glorious future of the Peace Movement.

The Peace Movement is the only instrument we have to conquer the craze for violence and destruction which, though vanquished, still seeks to survive.

In India, where lies perhaps the borderline between peace and war at the present time, not only the working-class and the peasantry but also the educated middle class including the intellectuals are committed against the war psychosis of the imperialist powers. Our Prime Minister's firm stand for an era of peaceful co-existence has added strength to the people's stand.

We in India ardently hope that with the increased support of the peoples of all climes the Peace Movement will win even greater victories in 1955 and inaugurate a new era of peace and happiness for the world.

Professor Joseph Mundassery

Member of the State Legislative Assembly of Travancore-Cochin (India)

The World Assembly of Representatives of the Forces of Peace in 1955, the aim of which is to make unity prevail over division and peace over war, is in conformity with the interests of Vietnamese Catholics and of the people of Viet Nam. I shall not fail to publicise this Assembly in Catholic circles in our country.

Father Ho Thanh Bien

Catholic priest from South Viet Nam

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